

REMARKS

Claims 33-34, 38, 41-42, 48-49, 54-66, and 70-83 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-32, 35-37, 39-40, 43-47, 50-53, 67-69, and 84-87 were previously canceled. By virtue of this response, Claims 34, 38, 48, 49, and 55 have been amended. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as filed. Accordingly, Claims 33-34, 38, 41-42, 48-49, 54-66, and 70-83 are currently under consideration. Amendments of certain claims are not to be construed as a dedication to the public of any of the subject matter of the claims as previously presented.

Examiner Interview Summary and Applicants' Remarks

Applicants thank the Examiner for his graciousness in taking the time to discuss the pending application with Applicant's representatives, Laura Johnson and Ned Israelsen, on September 18, 2009. During the interview, the Examiner acknowledged that amending Claims 34 and 38 to recite the membrane as being continuously curved would distinguish the claimed device over the prior art references cited in the last Office Action.

In view of the Examiner Interview, Applicants amend Claims 34 and 38, from which Claims 33, 41-42, 48-49, 54-66, and 70-83 directly or indirectly depend, to recite that the membrane is continuously curved. Support for this feature can be found, *e.g.*, in Figures. 1A-1C and page 7 lines 17-22, of the specification as filed.

Applicants submit that none of the references cited in the last Office Action, *i.e.*, U.S. Patent No. 5,372,133 (hereinafter referred to as "Hogen Esch"), U.S. Patent No. 5,706,807 (hereinafter referred to as "Picha"), and U.S. Patent No. 5,322,063 (hereinafter referred to as "Allen"), alone or in combination, teach or fairly suggest a continuously curved membrane.

As discussed during the interview, modifying the Hogen Esch device of Figure 1 by applying a membrane onto the device would seemingly result in a membrane with the same shape as the electrodes, *i.e.*, a shape that is not continuously curved.

Accordingly, none of the modifications previously proposed by the Examiner would arrive at the device described in amended Claims 34 and 38. Furthermore, Applicants submit that the continuously curved feature of the membrane of the claimed device is not arbitrary. As noted in page 13, lines 20-22 of the specification as filed, providing a membrane that is

Application No.: 09/447,227
Filing Date. November 22, 1999

continuously curved "assist[s] in the formation of vasculature in the sensor interface dome [] region, and hence presentation of sample to electrodes."

For at least the reasons described above, Applicants submit that the pending claims, as amended, are distinguishable over the prior art references previously cited, and thus respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections in the last Office Action.

Co-Pending Applications of Assignee

Applicants wish to draw the Examiner's attention to the following patents and applications of the present application's assignee.

Docket No.	Serial No.	Title	Filed
DEXCOM.9CPDVC	07/122395	BIOLOGICAL FLUID MEASURING DEVICE	11/19/1987
DEXCOM.9CPDCP	07/216683	BIOLOGICAL FLUID MEASURING DEVICE	7/7/1988
DEXCOM.008A	08/811473	DEVICE AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING ANALYTE LEVELS	3/4/1997
DEXCOM.008DV1	09/447227	DEVICE AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING ANALYTE LEVELS	11/22/1999
DEXCOM.8DVC1	09/489588	DEVICE AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING ANALYTE LEVELS	1/21/2000
DEXCOM.8DVCP1	09/636369	SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR REMOTE MONITORING AND MODULATION OF MEDICAL DEVICES	8/11/2000
DEXCOM.006A	09/916386	MEMBRANE FOR USE WITH IMPLANTABLE DEVICES	7/27/2001
DEXCOM.007A	09/916711	SENSOR HEAD FOR USE WITH IMPLANTABLE DEVICE	7/27/2001
DEXCOM.8DVCP2	09/916858	DEVICE AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING ANALYTE LEVELS	7/27/2001
DEXCOM.010A	10/153356	TECHNIQUES TO IMPROVE POLYURETHANE MEMBRANES FOR IMPLANTABLE GLUCOSE SENSORS	5/22/2002
DEXCOM.024A	10/632537	SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR PROCESSING ANALYTE SENSOR DATA	8/1/2003
DEXCOM.026A	10/633329	SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR PROCESSING ANALYTE SENSOR DATA	8/1/2003

DEXCOM.016A	10/633367	SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR PROCESSING ANALYTE SENSOR DATA	8/1/2003
DEXCOM.025A	10/633404	SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR PROCESSING ANALYTE SENSOR DATA	8/1/2003
DEXCOM.011A	10/646333	OPTIMIZED SENSOR GEOMETRY FOR AN IMPLANTABLE GLUCOSE SENSOR	8/22/2003
DEXCOM.012A	10/647065	POROUS MEMBRANES FOR USE WITH IMPLANTABLE DEVICES	8/22/2003
DEXCOM.027A	10/648849	SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR REPLACING SIGNAL ARTIFACTS IN A GLUCOSE SENSOR DATA STREAM	8/22/2003
DEXCOM.8DVC1C1	10/657843	DEVICE AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING ANALYTE LEVELS	9/9/2003
DEXCOM.028A	10/695636	SILICONE COMPOSITION FOR BIOCOMPATIBLE MEMBRANE	10/28/2003
DEXCOM.006C1	10/768889	MEMBRANE FOR USE WITH IMPLANTABLE DEVICES	1/29/2004
DEXCOM.037A	10/789359	INTEGRATED DELIVERY DEVICE FOR CONTINUOUS GLUCOSE SENSOR	2/26/2004
DEXCOM.045A	10/838658	IMPLANTABLE ANALYTE SENSOR	5/3/2004
DEXCOM.044A	10/838909	IMPLANTABLE ANALYTE SENSOR	5/3/2004
DEXCOM.043A	10/838912	IMPLANTABLE ANALYTE SENSOR	5/3/2004
DEXCOM.012CP1	10/842716	BIOINTERFACE MEMBRANES INCORPORATING BIOACTIVE AGENTS	5/10/2004
DEXCOM.8DV1CP	10/846150	ANALYTE MEASURING DEVICE	5/14/2004
DEXCOM.048A	10/885476	SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR MANUFACTURE OF AN ANALYTE-MEASURING DEVICE INCLUDING A MEMBRANE SYSTEM	7/6/2004
DEXCOM.019A	10/896637	ROLLED ELECTRODE ARRAY AND ITS METHOD FOR MANUFACTURE	7/21/2004
DEXCOM.021A	10/896639	OXYGEN ENHANCING MEMBRANE SYSTEMS FOR IMPLANTABLE DEVICES	7/21/2004
DEXCOM.020A	10/896772	INCREASING BIAS FOR OXYGEN PRODUCTION IN AN ELECTRODE SYSTEM	7/21/2004

DEXCOM.023A	10/897312	ELECTRODE SYSTEMS FOR ELECTROCHEMICAL SENSORS	7/21/2004
DEXCOM.022A	10/897377	ELECTROCHEMICAL SENSORS INCLUDING ELECTRODE SYSTEMS WITH INCREASED OXYGEN GENERATION	7/21/2004
DEXCOM.030A	10/991353	AFFINITY DOMAIN FOR ANALYTE SENSOR	11/16/2004
DEXCOM.032A	10/991966	INTEGRATED RECEIVER FOR CONTINUOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	11/17/2004
DEXCOM.038A	11/004561	CALIBRATION TECHNIQUES FOR A CONTINUOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	12/3/2004
DEXCOM.031A	11/007635	SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR IMPROVING ELECTROCHEMICAL ANALYTE SENSORS	12/7/2004
DEXCOM.029A	11/007920	SIGNAL PROCESSING FOR CONTINUOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	12/8/2004
DEXCOM.008DV1C	11/021046	DEVICE AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING ANALYTE LEVELS	12/22/2004
DEXCOM.007C1	11/021162	SENSOR HEAD FOR USE WITH IMPLANTABLE DEVICES	12/22/2004
DEXCOM.040A	11/034343	COMPOSITE MATERIAL FOR IMPLANTABLE DEVICE	1/11/2005
DEXCOM.039A	11/034344	IMPLANTABLE DEVICE WITH IMPROVED RADIO FREQUENCY CAPABILITIES	1/11/2005
DEXCOM.024C1	11/038340	SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR PROCESSING ANALYTE SENSOR DATA	1/18/2005
DEXCOM.8DVCP2C	11/039269	DEVICE AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING ANALYTE LEVELS	1/19/2005
DEXCOM.034A	11/055779	BIOINTERFACE MEMBRANE WITH MACRO- AND MICRO- ARCHITECTURE	2/9/2005
DEXCOM.051A8	11/077643	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	3/10/2005
DEXCOM.051A5	11/077693	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	3/10/2005
DEXCOM.051A4	11/077713	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	3/10/2005
DEXCOM.051A6	11/077714	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	3/10/2005
DEXCOM.051A	11/077715	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	3/10/2005

Application No.: 09/447,227
Filing Date. November 22, 1999

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DEXCOM.051A11	11/077740	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	3/10/2005
DEXCOM.050A	11/077759	TRANSCUTANEOUS MEDICAL DEVICE WITH VARIABLE STIFFNESS	3/10/2005
DEXCOM.051A7	11/077763	METHOD AND SYSTEMS FOR INSERTING A TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	3/10/2005
DEXCOM.051A12	11/077765	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	3/10/2005
DEXCOM.051A1	11/077883	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	3/10/2005
DEXCOM.051A9	11/078072	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	3/10/2005
DEXCOM.051A2	11/078230	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	3/10/2005
DEXCOM.051A3	11/078232	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	3/10/2005
DEXCOM.061A1	11/157365	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	6/21/2005
DEXCOM.061A	11/157746	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	6/21/2005
DEXCOM.061A2	11/158227	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	6/21/2005
DEXCOM.016C1	11/201445	SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR PROCESSING ANALYTE SENSOR DATA	8/10/2005
DEXCOM.010DV2	11/280102	TECHNIQUES TO IMPROVE POLYURETHANE MEMBRANES FOR IMPLANTABLE GLUCOSE SENSORS	11/16/2005
DEXCOM.010DV1	11/280672	TECHNIQUES TO IMPROVE POLYURETHANE MEMBRANES FOR IMPLANTABLE GLUCOSE SENSORS	11/16/2005
DEXCOM.063A	11/333837	LOW OXYGEN IN VIVO ANALYTE SENSOR	1/17/2006
DEXCOM.061CP1	11/334107	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	1/17/2006
DEXCOM.061CP2	11/334876	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	1/18/2006
DEXCOM.058A	11/335879	CELLULOSIC-BASED INTERFERENCE DOMAIN FOR AN ANALYTE SENSOR	1/18/2006
DEXCOM.077A	11/360250	ANALYTE SENSOR	2/22/2006
DEXCOM.061CP3	11/360252	ANALYTE SENSOR	2/22/2006

DEXCOM.051CP1	11/360262	ANALYTE SENSOR	2/22/2006
DEXCOM.051CP2	11/360299	ANALYTE SENSOR	2/22/2006
DEXCOM.061CP4	11/360819	ANALYTE SENSOR	2/22/2006
DEXCOM.053A	11/373628	SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR PROCESSING ANALYTE SENSOR DATA FOR SENSOR CALIBRATION	3/9/2006
DEXCOM.075A	11/404417	SILICONE BASED MEMBRANES FOR USE IN IMPLANTABLE GLUCOSE SENSORS	4/14/2006
DEXCOM.010CP1	11/404418	SILICONE BASED MEMBRANES FOR USE IN IMPLANTABLE GLUCOSE SENSORS	4/14/2006
DEXCOM.054A1	11/404421	ANALYTE SENSING BIOINTERFACE	4/14/2006
DEXCOM.054A	11/404929	ANALYTE SENSING BIOINTERFACE	4/14/2006
DEXCOM.054A2	11/404946	ANALYTE SENSING BIOINTERFACE	4/14/2006
DEXCOM.021C1	11/410392	OXYGEN ENHANCING MEMBRANE SYSTEMS FOR IMPLANTABLE DEVICES	4/25/2006
DEXCOM.021DV1	11/410555	OXYGEN ENHANCING MEMBRANE SYSTEMS FOR IMPLANTABLE DEVICES	4/25/2006
DEXCOM.051CP1C1	11/411656	ANALYTE SENSOR	4/26/2006
DEXCOM.060A	11/413238	CELLULOSIC-BASED RESISTANCE DOMAIN FOR AN ANALYTE SENSOR	4/28/2006
DEXCOM.060A2	11/413242	CELLULOSIC-BASED RESISTANCE DOMAIN FOR AN ANALYTE SENSOR	4/28/2006
DEXCOM.060A1	11/413356	CELLULOSIC-BASED RESISTANCE DOMAIN FOR AN ANALYTE SENSOR	4/28/2006
DEXCOM.051C1	11/415593	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	5/2/2006
DEXCOM.011DV3	11/415631	OPTIMIZED SENSOR GEOMETRY FOR AN IMPLANTABLE GLUCOSE SENSOR	5/2/2006
DEXCOM.051C3	11/415999	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	5/2/2006
DEXCOM.011DV1	11/416058	OPTIMIZED SENSOR GEOMETRY FOR AN IMPLANTABLE GLUCOSE SENSOR	5/2/2006
DEXCOM.011DV2	11/416346	OPTIMIZED SENSOR GEOMETRY FOR AN IMPLANTABLE GLUCOSE SENSOR	5/2/2006
DEXCOM.051C2	11/416375	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	5/2/2006

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DEXCOM.012CP1C1	11/416825	BIOINTERFACE MEMBRANES INCORPORATING BIOACTIVE AGENTS	5/3/2006
DEXCOM.051CP4	11/439559	ANALYTE SENSOR	5/23/2006
DEXCOM.051CP3	11/439630	ANALYTE SENSOR	5/23/2006
DEXCOM.051CP5	11/439800	ANALYTE SENSOR	5/23/2006
DEXCOM.61CP3CP1	11/445792	ANALYTE SENSOR	6/1/2006
DEXCOM.027CP1	11/498410	SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR REPLACING SIGNAL ARTIFACTS IN A GLUCOSE SENSOR DATA STREAM	8/2/2006
DEXCOM.51CP3CP1	11/503367	ANALYTE SENSOR	8/10/2006
DEXCOM.27CP1CP2	11/515342	SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR PROCESSING ANALYTE SENSOR DATA	9/1/2006
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DEXCOM.088A	11/543396	ANALYTE SENSOR	10/4/2006
DEXCOM.088A3	11/543404	ANALYTE SENSOR	10/4/2006
DEXCOM.088A2	11/543490	ANALYTE SENSOR	10/4/2006
DEXCOM.038CP2	11/543539	DUAL ELECTRODE SYSTEM FOR A CONTINUOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	10/4/2006
DEXCOM.038CP3	11/543683	DUAL ELECTRODE SYSTEM FOR A CONTINUOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	10/4/2006
DEXCOM.038CP1	11/543707	DUAL ELECTRODE SYSTEM FOR A CONTINUOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	10/4/2006
DEXCOM.038CP4	11/543734	DUAL ELECTRODE SYSTEM FOR A CONTINUOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	10/4/2006
DEXCOM.8DCP2CC1	11/546157	DEVICE AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING ANALYTE LEVELS	10/10/2006
DEXCOM.012DV1	11/654135	POROUS MEMBRANES FOR USE WITH IMPLANTABLE DEVICES	1/17/2007
DEXCOM.058CP1	11/654140	MEMBRANES FOR AN ANALYTE SENSOR	1/17/2007
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DEXCOM.61CP2CP1	11/690752	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	3/23/2007
DEXCOM.088CP3	11/691424	ANALYTE SENSOR	3/26/2007
DEXCOM.088CP1	11/691426	ANALYTE SENSOR	3/26/2007
DEXCOM.088CP2	11/691432	ANALYTE SENSOR	3/26/2007
DEXCOM.088CP4	11/691466	ANALYTE SENSOR	3/26/2007
DEXCOM.38CP1CP1	11/692154	DUAL ELECTRODE SYSTEM FOR A CONTINUOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	3/27/2007
DEXCOM.61CP2CP4	11/734178	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	4/11/2007
DEXCOM.61CP2CP2	11/734184	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	4/11/2007
DEXCOM.61CP2CP3	11/734203	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	4/11/2007
DEXCOM.093A	11/750907	ANALYTE SENSORS HAVING A SIGNAL-TO-NOISE RATIO SUBSTANTIALLY UNAFFECTED BY NON-CONSTANT NOISE	5/18/2007
DEXCOM.27CP1CP3	11/762638	SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR REPLACING SIGNAL DATA ARTIFACTS IN A GLUCOSE SENSOR DATA STREAM	6/13/2007
DEXCOM.028DV1	11/763215	SILICONE COMPOSITION FOR BIOCOMPATIBLE MEMBRANE	6/14/2007
DEXCOM.051C4	11/797520	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	5/3/2007
DEXCOM.051C5	11/797521	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	5/3/2007
DEXCOM.061CP2C2	11/842139	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	8/21/2007
DEXCOM.061C1	11/842142	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	8/21/2007
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DEXCOM.061CP4C1	11/842146	ANALYTE SENSOR	8/20/2007
DEXCOM.061A1C1	11/842148	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	8/21/2007
DEXCOM.61CP3CPC	11/842149	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	8/21/2007
DEXCOM.077C1	11/842151	ANALYTE SENSOR	8/21/2007
DEXCOM.061CP2C1	11/842154	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	8/21/2007

Application No.: 09/447,227
Filing Date. November 22, 1999

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DEXCOM.025C1	11/865660	SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR PROCESSING ANALYTE SENSOR DATA	10/1/2007
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DEXCOM.029C1	12/263993	SIGNAL PROCESSING FOR CONTINUOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	11/3/2008
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DEXCOM.027DV1	12/353787	SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR REPLACING SIGNAL ARTIFACTS IN A GLUCOSE SENSOR DATA STREAM	1/14/2009
DEXCOM.027DV2	12/353799	SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR REPLACING SIGNAL ARTIFACTS IN A GLUCOSE SENSOR DATA STREAM	1/14/2009
DEXCOM.061C2	12/353870	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	1/14/2009
DEXCOM.051C7	12/359207	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	1/23/2009
DEXCOM.100A	12/362194	CONTINUOUS CARDIAC MARKER SENSOR SYSTEM	1/29/2009
DEXCOM.061CP2C3	12/364786	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	2/3/2009
DEXCOM.101A	12/365683	CONTINUOUS MEDICAMENT SENSOR SYSTEM FOR IN VIVO USE	2/4/2009
DEXCOM.102A2	12/390205	SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR CUSTOMIZING DELIVERY OF SENSOR DATA	2/20/2009
DEXCOM.102A3	12/390290	SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR BLOOD GLUCOSE MONITORING AND ALERT DELIVERY	2/20/2009
DEXCOM.102A1	12/390304	SYSTEMS AND METHODS FOR PROCESSING, TRANSMITTING AND DISPLAYING SENSOR DATA	2/20/2009
DEXCOM.061DV1	12/391148	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	2/23/2009
DEXCOM.051C10	12/393887	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	2/26/2009
DEXCOM.104A2	12/413166	POLYMER MEMBRANES FOR CONTINUOUS ANALYTE SENSORS	3/27/2009

DEXCOM.104A1	12/413231	POLYMER MEMBRANES FOR CONTINUOUS ANALYTE SENSORS	3/27/2009
DEXCOM.029DV8	12/424391	SIGNAL PROCESSING FOR CONTINUOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	4/15/2009
DEXCOM.029DV7	12/424403	SIGNAL PROCESSING FOR CONTINUOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	4/15/2009
DEXCOM.061A1C2	12/437436	TRANSCUTANEOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	5/7/2009
DEXCOM.029DV9	12/509396	SIGNAL PROCESSING FOR CONTINUOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	7/24/2009
DEXCOM.075DV1	12/511982	SILICONE BASED MEMBRANES FOR USE IN IMPLANTABLE GLUCOSE SENSORS	7/29/2009
DEXCOM.088CP4C1	12/535620	ANALYTE SENSOR	8/4/2009
DEXCOM.037DV1	12/536852	INTEGRATED DELIVERY DEVICE FOR CONTINUOUS GLUCOSE SENSOR	8/6/2009
DEXCOM.095A	12/562011	PARTICLE-CONTAINING MEMBRANE AND PARTICULATE ELECTRODE FOR ANALYTE SENSORS	9/17/2009
DEXCOM.029DV12	12/565166	SIGNAL PROCESSING FOR CONTINUOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	9/23/2009
DEXCOM.029DV13	12/565173	SIGNAL PROCESSING FOR CONTINUOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	9/23/2009
DEXCOM.029DV10	12/565180	SIGNAL PROCESSING FOR CONTINUOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	9/23/2009
DEXCOM.029DV14	12/565199	SIGNAL PROCESSING FOR CONTINUOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	9/23/2009
DEXCOM.032DV1DV	12/565205	SIGNAL PROCESSING FOR CONTINUOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	9/23/2009
DEXCOM.029DV15	12/565231	SIGNAL PROCESSING FOR CONTINUOUS ANALYTE SENSOR	9/23/2009
DEXCOM.025RX	95/001038	SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR PROCESSING ANALYTE SENSOR DATA	4/17/2008
DEXCOM.024RX	95/001039	SYSTEM AND METHODS FOR PROCESSING ANALYTE SENSOR DATA	4/17/2008

Conclusion

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested

Application No.: 09/447,227
Filing Date. November 22, 1999

to withdraw the outstanding rejections of the claims and pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Any remarks in support of patentability of one claim should not be imputed to any claim, even if similar terminology is used. Additionally, any remarks referring to only a portion of a claim should not be understood to base patentability on that portion; rather, patentability must rest on each claim taken as a whole. Applicants respectfully traverse each of the Examiner's rejections and each of the Examiner's assertion regarding what the prior art shows or teaches, even if not expressly discussed herein. Although amendments have been made, no acquiescence or estoppel is or should be implied thereby. Rather, the amendments are made only to expedite prosecution of the present application, and without prejudice to presentation or assertion, in the future, of claims on the subject matter affected thereby.

Although the present communication may include alterations to the application or claims, or characterizations of claim scope or referenced art, Applicants are not conceding in this application that previously pending claims are not patentable over the cited references. Rather, any alterations or characterizations are being made to facilitate expeditious prosecution of this application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue at a later date any previously pending or other broader or narrower claims that capture any subject matter supported by the present disclosure, including subject matter found to be specifically disclaimed herein or by any prior prosecution. Accordingly, reviewers of this or any parent, child, or related prosecution history shall not reasonably infer that Applicants have made any disclaimers or disavowals of any subject matter supported by the present application.

Application No.: 09/447,227
Filing Date. November 22, 1999

No fee is believed due with the filing of this document. However, in the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this documents to Deposit Account No. 11-1410, of which the undersigned is an authorized signatory.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: October 1, 2009

By: /Rose M. Thiessen/
Rose M. Thiessen
Registration No. 40,202
Attorney of Record
Customer No. 20995
(619) 235-8550

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